

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
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R 241541Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5733
INFO USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

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USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT
DOE PASS AMMONS, IA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, OCON, IAEA, TECH, ENRG, PARM
SUBJECT: IAEA/ARGONNE NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING COURSE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION HAS LOOKED INTO MATTER OF SAFEGUARDS PRESENTATION IN NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING COURSE UNDERWAY AT ARGONNE AS WELL AS BROADER QUESTION OF SUCH PRESENTATIONS IN FUTURE COURSES. AS NOTED BELOW, DDG ROMETSCH HAS AGREED INFORMALLY TO MAKE AVAILABLE MEMBER HIS STAFF TO PROVIDE LECTURE ON SAFEGUARDS AT CURRENT COURSE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. QUESTION OF SUCH LECTURES AT FUTURE COURSES IS LEFT FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL AGENCY STAFF MEMBERS IN DIVISIONS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS, AND DEPARTMENT OF SAFEGUARDS, IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEAR THAT AGENCY STRONGLY PREFERS TO DROP SAFEGUARDS LECTURES FROM ITS NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING COURSES. THEY BELIEVE, ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE GAINED THUS FAR AT SUCH TRAINING COURSES IN USA, FRG, AND FRANCE, THAT SUCH LECTURES ARE TURNING OUT TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, BECAUSE THEY ARE "PROVOKING THE WRONG RESPONSE," IN THE WORDS OF ONE AGENCY STAFF MEMBER. THIS RESPONSE, IN MOST CASES,

BOILS DOWN TO CRITICAL COMMENTS RE CONDITIONS ON SUPPLY AND NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES OF USG AND OTHER SUPPLIERS, THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP, AND OTHER RELATED "POLICY" MATTERS WHICH AGENCY PERSONNEL HAVE DIFFICULTY ANSWERING. SAFEGUARDS TOPIC, AS SUCH, TENDS TO GET LOST IN THE NOISE.

3. AS FAR AS THE AGENCY IS CONCERNED, THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED IN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF OTHER LECTURES WHICH REPORTEDLY HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE EITHER CRITICAL OF U.S. NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES (PRESENTED BY MANNING MUNTZING) OR OF AGENCY SAFEGUARDS (PRESENTED BY LARRY SCHEINMAN). IN BOTH INSTANCES, THE AGENCY FOUND ITSELF IN AWKWARD POSITION, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE COURSE IS ORGANIZED AND FUNDED JOINTLY BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE AGENCY. FYI. WE HAVE READ A COPY OF MUNTZING'S LECTURE, WHICH WAS PRESENTED UNDER THE HEADING "CONTRACTING TERMS AND CONDITIONS," BUT WHICH IS TITLED "INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, AGREEMENTS AND LAW CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY" AND DEALS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH NON-PROLIFERATION MATTERS FROM THE LEGAL POINT OF VIEW. IT CONTAINS SEVERAL INACCURACIES AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS, AND, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, IS NOT RPT NOT AN APPROPRIATE PRESENTATION AT A COURSE SPONSORED IN LARGE PART BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. COPY IS BEING POUCHED TO AMMONS/DOE. WE UNDERSTAND MUNTZING'S LECTURE WAS SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED FOR THE CURRENT COURSE. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT SEEN SCHEINMAN'S LECTURE. END FYI.

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4. AGENCY HAS ALSO NOTED THAT MOST PARTICIPANTS AT THESE TRAINING COURSES TEND TO BECOME QUICKLY BORED AND IRRITATED WHEN THE SUBJECT OF SAFEGUARDS IS DISCUSSED. MOST PARTICIPANTS HAVE ENGINEERING OR OTHER TECHNICAL BACK-GROUNDS AND DO NOT RPT NOT PERCEIVE SAFEGUARDS AS AN AREA THEY WILL BE DEALING WITH. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES THIS IS A MUCH LESS DEFENSIBLE ARGUMENT FOR DROPPING SAFEGUARDS FROM THESE COURSES, BUT IT WAS MENTIONED AS A FACTOR. END COMMENT.

5. SHORTLY AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL, BUT BEFORE WE HAD GONE VERY FAR IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH AGENCY, MISSION RECEIVED FORMAL AGENCY LETTER PROPOSING THAT THE SAFEGUARDS LECTURES AT ITS NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING COURSES BE DROPPED AND STATING THAT "WE TRUST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION." LETTER REQUESTS U.S. CONCURRENCE WITH THIS PROPOSAL. WE WERE UNAWARE THAT IT WAS IN PREPARATION.

6. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS REFTEL, MISSION SOUGHT TO FIND A MIDDLE GROUND WHEREBY AGENCY WOULD AGREE TO PRE-

SENT SAFEGUARDS LECTURE AT CURRENT COURSE AT ARGONNE BUT
LEAVE OPEN THE BROADER QUESTION OF SAFEGUARDS LECTURES AT
FUTURE COURSES, RECOGNIZING THAT LATTER QUESTION WOULD UN-
DOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSED AT THE TRAINING COURSE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING IN KARLSRUHE MARCH 13-14. IN THIS
CONNECTION ON THE BASIS OF A PROPOSAL WE
MADE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DDG ROMETSCH, HE INFORMALLY
AGREED THAT A LECTURER COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE
CURRENT COURSE, PROVIDED THE SUBJECT COULD BE CONFINED TO
AGENCY SAFEGUARDS AND NOT RPT NOT GET INTO OTHER AREAS,
SUCH AS NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES, NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS,

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ETC.

7. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. COURSE DIRECTOR
KANTER, WHO VISITED MISSION AFTER KARLSRUHE MEETING, WE
REACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH HIM THAT AGENCY LECTURE
FOR PRESENT ARGONNE COURSE SHOULD BE CONFINED TO AGENCY
SAFEGUARDS IMPLICATIONS FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS WITH
WHICH COURSE IS CONCERNED AND PRESENTED IN CONJUNCTION
WITH LECTURES ON NUCLEAR FUEL MANAGEMENT. PREFERRED
DATE IS MAY 10, BUT MAY 9 WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE.

8. KANTER ALSO MENTIONED THAT GENERAL QUESTION OF SAFE-
GUARDS PRESENTATIONS WAS IN FACT DISCUSSED AT THE KARLS-
RUHE MEETING, AND IN THE END THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO
RECOMMEND THAT "SAFEGUARDS SHOULD NOT BE MAINTAINED AS A
MODULE IN THE OVERVIEW COURSES (PHASE I AND II COURSES),
BUT TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SAFEGUARDS MAY BE MENTIONED

WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL MODULES IN THE COURSE." THUS, THE ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED TO DDG ROMETSCH AND INFORMALLY ACCEPTED BY HIM, AS WELL AS THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH KANTER, ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATTER.

9. IN VIEW FOREGOING, AND IN RESPONSE TO AGENCY'S LETTER MENTIONED PARA 5 ABOVE, MISSION IS FORMALLY PROPOSING TO AGENCY THAT THE AGENCY PROVIDE A LECTURER FOR SAFEGUARDS TOPIC AT THE CURRENT COURSE ALONG THE LINES MENTIONED IN PARA 7 ABOVE. IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, WE ARE MAKING CLEAR THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH SAFEGUARDS IS TREATED IN FUTURE COURSES HELD IN THE USA, WHETHER OVERVIEW OR SPECIALIZED COURSES RELATING TO NUCLEAR POWER, SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION. COPIES OF MISSION LETTER WITH INCOMING AGENCY LETTER BEING POUCHED AMMONS/DOE.

10. AS RESULT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT USG TAKE STEPS TO REVIEW IN DETAIL EXACTLY WHAT IS BEING PRESENTED BY NON-IAEA LECTURERS AT ALL TRAINING COURSES AT ARGONNE, PARTICULARLY FROM STANDPOINT OF CONSISTENCY WITH U.S. POLICIES. LEAHY

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